

ONLINE SERVICES
FIND ANSWERS TO YOUR
QUESTIONS

Ask the City is the place where people go online for answers to City of Bloomington questions and service inquiries. How do we know? In 2009, Ask the City was visited by 5,350 people, who viewed 12,492 frequently asked questions (FAQs) and submitted 222 questions and 386 service requests.

Visit the City’s website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, click on the Ask the City icon and search from hundreds of FAQs. Can’t find what you need? Login and submit a question or service request to the appropriate department.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: ASK THE CITY.

SUBSCRIBE TO E-SUBSCRIBE

To stay informed about City news, use E-Subscribe. This free subscription service sends e-mails and, for some topics, wireless notifications when updates to the most popular pages on the City’s website are posted. More than 3,000 people signed up for E-Subscribe in 2009.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: E-SUBSCRIBE.



NORMANDALE LAKE
AREA IMPROVEMENTS
SIGNS AND KIOSKS HELP
VISITORS NAVIGATE

Navigating around the beautiful Normandale Lake District just became a lot easier with the installation of new signs and kiosks. District entrance signs, pedestrian information kiosks and transit stop signs were installed in multiple locations around the park and business center in October and November.

The Normandale Lake District includes the area bounded by West 84th Street on the south, Stanley Road on the east, I-494 on the north and East Bush Lake Road on the west.

The new signs will help visitors recognize the district as a distinctive neighborhood by unifying the streetscape to enhance the area’s character. The improvements were completely funded by special assessments paid by office owners and tax abatements.

For more information, call Development Coordinator Jennifer Desrude at 952-563-4862.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: NORMANDALE LAKE.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONDS
NEARLY 5,700 VACCINATED FOR H1N1 FLU VIRUS

As of January 5, Bloomington Public Health (BPH) vaccinated a total of 5,668 people for the H1N1 flu virus. By partnering with the Bloomington School District to bring clinics to public schools in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield, BPH was able to get the vaccine to high risk groups. To date, Public Health has held three large clinics in schools in Bloomington and four in Richfield and Edina.

Bloomington Public Health’s Clinical Services Manager Karen Stanley said that despite the long lines and crowds at some of the clinics, everyone was able to receive the vaccination.

“Our goal is to always be accessible to everyone who wants to be vaccinated,” Stanley said. “We’re a safety net for people, especially the uninsured.”

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control established priority groups to receive the limited amounts of the vaccine that were available in late 2009. The priority groups included all people six months to 24 years old, pregnant women, caregivers of infants younger than six months, healthcare and emergency medical personnel, and those with underlying health conditions. To effectively administer the vaccine to priority groups, Public Health worked closely with the School District, health care professionals, police, fire and emergency medical services, and child care providers.

The MDH opened the vaccinations to all groups in mid-December as more of the vaccine was produced and became available.

Continue to protect yourself

- Get vaccinated.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Clean your hands before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- People with an underlying medical condition, pregnant women, young children (especially under age two), and people 65 or older should contact their health care providers if they have flu symptoms or have been exposed to people with the flu.

For more information, call Public Health’s Karen Stanley at 952-563-8990 or Lisa Brodsky at 952-563-4962.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FLU SHOT.



INTERNET SHOPPING
STAYING SAFE WHILE MAKING
ONLINE PURCHASES

The holidays may be behind us, but shopping online is an activity that takes place all year long, and with good reason. Shopping on the Internet can save valuable time and money. However, it also exposes users to scams and fraud. The Bloomington Police Department suggests following these online shopping safety tips from the Federal Trade Commission:

- 1 Know who you are dealing with** when online. Anyone can set up shop on the Web. Confirm a seller’s identity by visiting the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org.
- 2 Pay by credit or charge card.** This will protect you under the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, you have the right to dispute charges and withhold payment while the creditor is checking them out.
- 3 Keep a paper trail.** Print and save records of all your online transactions.
- 4 Look for secure websites.** An icon such as a lock on the browser’s status bar or a URL for a website that begins with “https” are good signs that you may be on a secure site.

For more information, visit the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov.



BRING HOME SOME GREEN
ANNUAL TREE SALE HELPS PLANT HUNDREDS OF TREES

Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s treasures. In fact, the City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds a public tree sale. Based on last year’s sales, 280 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

_____ Autumn Blaze red maple	_____ Hackberry
_____ Imperial honeylocust	_____ Northwood red maple
_____ Prairie Fire crab apple	_____ Snowdrift crab apple
_____ River birch	_____ Green Mountain sugar maple

Total trees X \$50 ea. = \$ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 1, 9 - 11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



Available tree species include: Autumn Blaze red maple, Hackberry, Imperial honeylocust, Northwood red maple, Prairie Fire crab apple, Snowdrift crab apple, River birch and Green Mountain sugar maple. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. For more information, call the Maintenance Division at 952-563-8760.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.

Red Maple courtesy of Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bug wood.org